



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

March 11, 2016**Matthew Knott
Division Chief - Rockford Fire****Phone: 779-348-7172****E-mail: matt.knott@rockfordil.gov**

Rockford Fire Issues Reminder to Check Smoke Detectors When Changing Clocks This Weekend

ROCKFORD, IL – Daylight savings time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. As clocks “spring forward” one hour, the Rockford Fire Department reminds everyone that this is a great time to also check detectors and change the batteries.

According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), “More than 3,500 people die in home fires each year in the United States; most of which are in homes without a working smoke alarm.” To date, there has not been a fatal fire in the City of Rockford where a working smoke detector was present. New technology has evolved and smoke detectors that last up to 10 years without changing the batteries can now be purchased.

“A working, properly installed smoke alarm lowers your chances of dying in a fire,” said Division Chief Matthew Knott. “Please take a few minutes this weekend to check your smoke alarms and review your fire safety plans with your family.”

The USFA and the Rockford Fire Department recommend some simple tips so residents can help keep the community safe this spring.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or as instructed.
- Be sure your home has smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Practice your home fire escape plan.

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